

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 21, to read as follows:

Each pixel data of the low resolution image 442 is filtered by a low-pass filter using a 3×3 matrix at predetermined times. Due to this, the low resolution image 42 442 changes to an LPF image 443 consisting of 320×240 pixels. In the LPF image 443, the contours of the object are not clear, because the image has been filtered by a low-pass filter.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 5, as follows:

At step 120, whether a shutter ~~bottom~~ button is pushed, namely, whether a shutter is released is determined. If the shutter is not released, the image processing routine finishes. If the shutter is released, the image is taken in by the CCD 52 at step 130, the image data is processed in the analog-digital signal processing circuit 53, and then the image data is stored in the SDRAM 55 as the Bayer data 10 at step 140. At step 160, whether the photograph mode which is input at step 100 is the soft focus mode is determined. If the mode is the soft focus mode, the Bayer data 10 is given the image processing for the soft focus mode at step 170 (shown in Fig. 8). Unless the mode is soft focus mode, the Bayer data 10 is given the image processing for the other than soft focus mode at step 180. The processed image data 14 which is processed at step 170 or 180 is output on the LCD monitor 59 at step 181. At step 182, the processed image data 14 is encoded in accordance with JPEG standard. Next, at step 183, the encoded processed image data 14 is stored on the memory 58, and then, the image processing routine in this embodiment finishes.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 6, as follows:

Fig. 8 shows a flowchart of the image processing routine in the soft focus mode at step 170. If the image processing starts for the soft focus mode, the soft focus level, which is determined at step 110, is read at step 200. At step 201, the second gamma curve is determined according to the soft focus level as ~~show~~ shown in Table 1.

Please amended the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 11, as follows:

As shown in the flowchart of the image processing routine, in this embodiment, the predetermined ratio (namely, α and β) for separating the original luminance data Y into the first luminance data Y (α) and the second luminance data Y (β), the image resolution in low-pass filter process, and the second gamma curve which is used when the second luminance data Y (β) is generated, can be selected from a stepwise series. Due to this, the blurred ~~extant~~ extent of the soft focus picture image can be set stepwise and easily. Namely, in this embodiment, the soft focus picture image can be provided according to the characteristics of the object or the desire of the user.